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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/073,020	02/12/2002	Yoshiaki Moriyama	Q68492	3103
23373	7590	06/16/2006	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			CHOWDHURY, NIGAR	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2621	

DATE MAILED: 06/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/073,020	MORIYAMA, YOSHIAKI
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Nigar Chowdhury	2621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 11-15 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 11-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) ✓ Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

1. Claims 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because claims are directed to a recording medium.

When nonfunctional descriptive material is recorded on some computer-readable medium, it is not statutory since no requisite functionality is present to satisfy the practical application requirement. Merely claiming nonfunctional descriptive material stored in a computer-readable medium does not make it statutory. See MPEP 2106.IV.B.1.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The independent method and apparatus claims 1 and 6 respectively identifies the uniquely distinct feature for "forcefully during a predetermined time period at a beginning of the digital watermark corresponding to the contents"
3. Hashimoto, US 7,027,611 discloses watermark strength is automatically varied in accordance with an amount of the digital images by detecting the amount of the digital images by a detection portion. The amount of the digital images may be

measured at every unit time, for example, a unit of block, macroblock, slice, and picture. Thus, detectability of the watermark is improved by adjusting the watermark strength on the basis of the amount of the digital images.

4. **Yoshiura, US 6,665,417** discloses digital watermark information judging method is provided for detecting digital watermark information which is embedded in at least one element of digital data by altering at least one data value of the element.

5. **Tewfik, US 6,226,387** discloses method and apparatus for the scene-based watermarking of video data is disclosed. In one embodiment, each of a number of frames of a scene of video host data undergoes a temporal wavelet transform, from which blocks are extracted. The blocks undergo perceptual masking in the frequency domain, such that a watermark is embedded therein. Once the watermark block is taken out of the frequency domain, a spatial mask of the original block is weighted to the watermark block, and added to the original block to obtain the watermarked block.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- (1) US 6, 983, 051 by Rhoads,
- (2) US 6, 959, 101 by Yoshiura

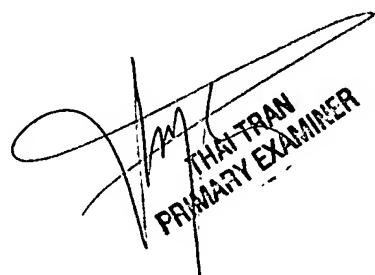
(3) US 7, 046, 808 by Metois

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nigar Chowdhury whose telephone number is 571-272-8890. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 AM - 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thai Tran can be reached on 571-272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

NIC
06/07/2006



THAI TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature of "THAI TRAN" is written over a printed title "PRIMARY EXAMINER".